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1989/09/27

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Department of State ppil:

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

N 84

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DAMASC. 85797. 2797232.

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R 270724Z SEP 89 - - - - - 371262 271017Z /

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1826
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING

CONFIDENTIAL DAMASCUS 9723

E. O. 12356: DEC 1948

TAGS: PREL, CH, ST

REFS: (A) OW 2209014389

1. (U) CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER QIAN QICHEN VISITED SYRIA SEPTEMBER 21-24 DURING HIS FIVE-COUNTRY VISIT TO THE REGION AND MET WITH THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT ON SEPTEMBER 23. SYRIAN PRESS ACCOUNTS EMPHASIZED THE SHARED VIEWS OF THE TWO STATES REGARDING SUPPORT FOR THE ARAB LEAGUE EFFORTS IN LEBANON AND CHINA'S CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN.

2. (C) SYRIAN PRESS NEGLECTED TWO INTERESTING POINTS CARRIED BY THE CHINESE PRESS. FIRST, IT CARRIED NO REFERENCE TO EGYPT'S TEN-POINT PEACE PLAN, WHICH QIAN SPOKE ABOUT ON HIS ARRIVAL IN DAMASCUS FROM CAIRO (REF A). SYRIA HAS NOT CARRIED ANY ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MUBARAK PLAN TO DATE [REDACTED]

3. (C) SIMILARLY, SYRIAN PRESS CARRIED NO MENTION OF A CHINESE INVITATION FOR ASAD TO VISIT BEIJING, ALTHOUGH ASAD'S UNOFFICIAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE OFFER WAS CARRIED BY THE CHINESE PRESS (REF B). THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ASAD VISIT TO CHINA HAS LONG BEEN RUMORED AND COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS ANNOUNCED DECISION TO VISIT IRAN .

DJEREJIAN

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